


MARSHALL

DRAWER 19A

Artists-M.

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# Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Nicola Marschall

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



*Handwritten: This is a copy of the original*

*Handwritten: Nicola Marschall*

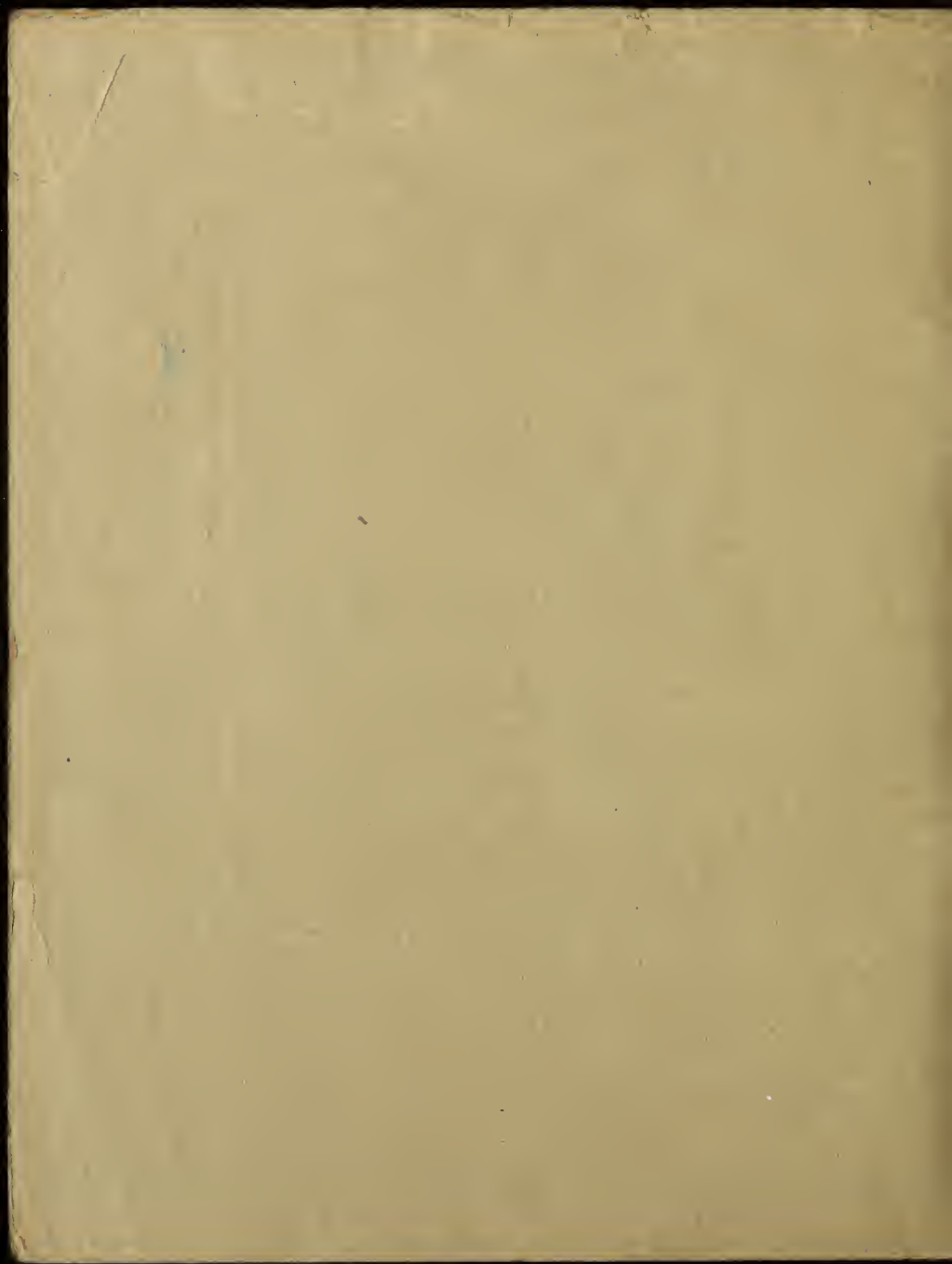
In Memoriam

**Nicola Marschall**

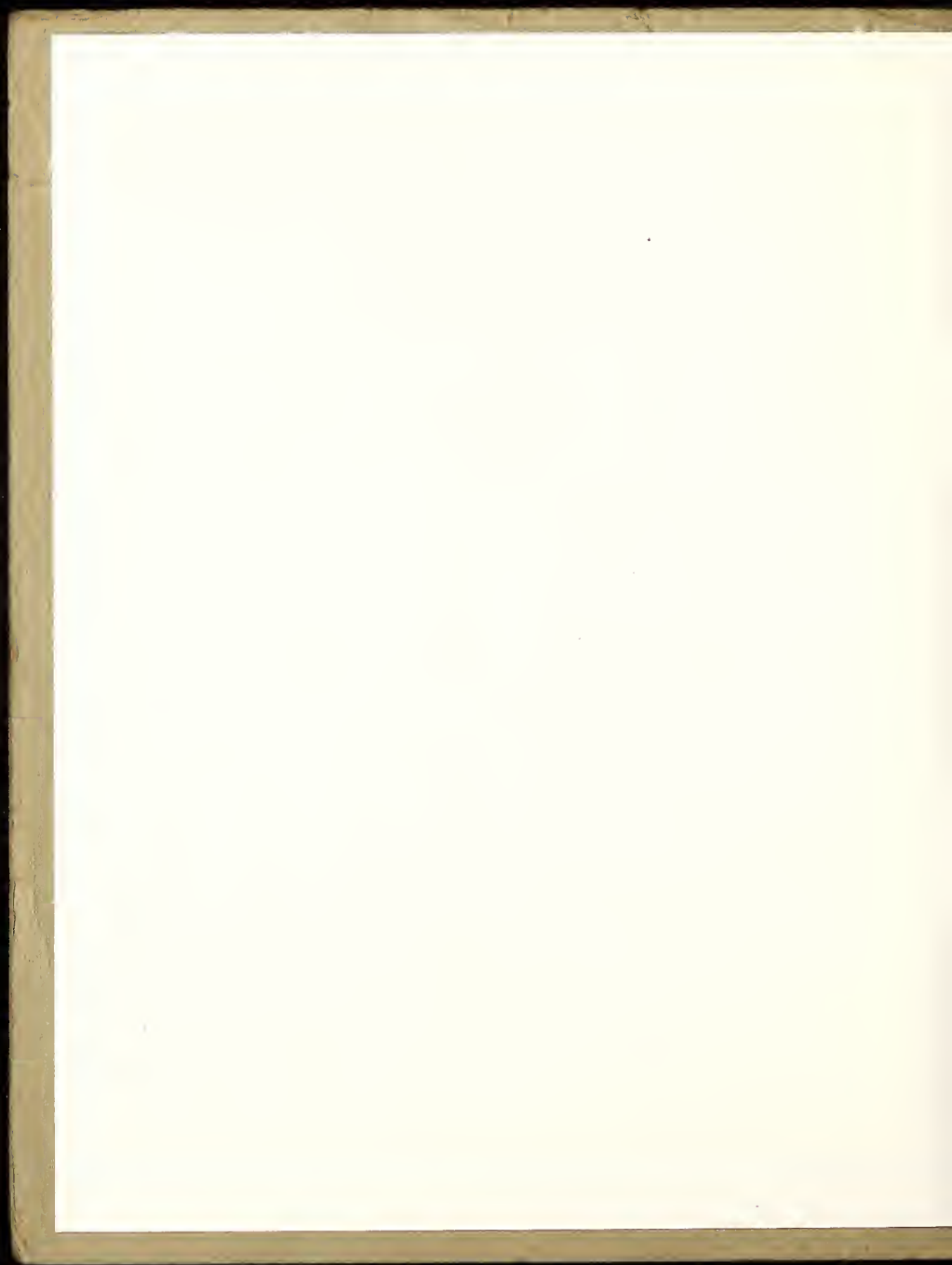
Born, March 16, 1829  
Died, February 24, 1917



JAMES T. WHITE & CO.  
NEW YORK, MCMXVIII













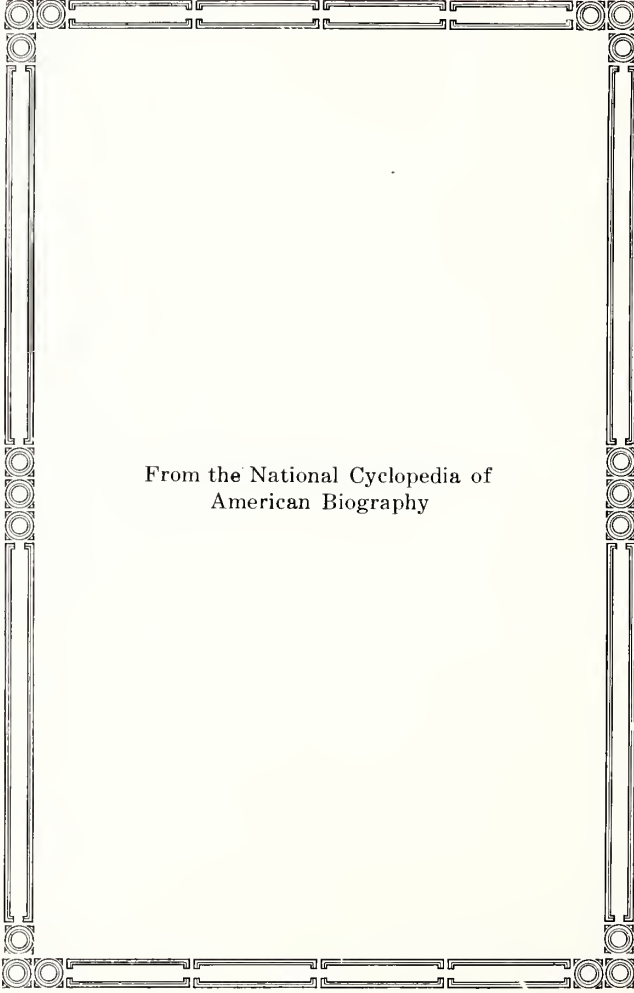
*In Memoriam*

Nicola Marschall

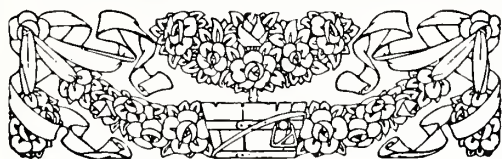
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NEW YORK, MCMXVIII



From the National Cyclopedia of  
American Biography



**N**ICOLA MARSCHALL, artist, musician and soldier, was born in St. Wendel, Rhenish Prussia, March 16, 1829, son of Emanuel Marschall, tobacco manufacturer and wine merchant of St. Wendel. He early began business life in his father's tobacco factory. But this unromantic life was distasteful to a youth who had always manifested a keen desire for art, and with an artist's career in view he studied painting and music in Rome, Florence, Naples, Paris, London, Berlin, Dusseldorf and Munich. His hearing having been impaired by an accident in childhood, he was exempted from compulsory military service in his native land, and with the permission of his government he came to



America in 1849, and settling in Marion, Ala., conducted a studio for many years, and taught languages, music and painting in the Marion Female Seminary. Meanwhile his fame as an artist had spread and his picture and paintings were much in demand. In March, 1861, he designed the flag, known as "The Stars and Bars," for the southern Confederacy, and also designed the gray uniform worn by the soldiers of the South in the war between the states. Mr. Marschall offered to serve in the confederate army, and throughout the struggle was chief draughtsman with rank of lieutenant in Gen. Richard Taylor's command of engineers. His work was confined chiefly to making sketches of the federal defenses and planning bridges and fortifications for the confederate forces. In 1873 he settled in Louisville, Ky., where as artist and musician he occupied the same studio until his death. Some of

his best known paintings are a portrait of Lincoln, purchased by the Jefferson Institute of Arts and Science, but subsequently acquired by a wealthy resident of Louisville; a portrait of Napoleon from descriptions given to him when in Paris, and a portrait of Gen. John C. Breckenridge. His favorite diversions were collecting curios, coins and old violins, and painting portraits of noted confederate and federal leaders he had known in real life. In every relation with his fellow men Mr. Marschall exhibited those rare qualities of intellectual poise, generosity and tranquility, which made his companionship delightful and rendered his counsel valuable. He was a 32d degree Mason. He was a member of the United Confederate Veterans, and he died in the full realization of the Christian faith. He was married Aug. 9, 1865, to Mattie Eliza, daughter of Jubel O. Marshall, a Baptist minister and

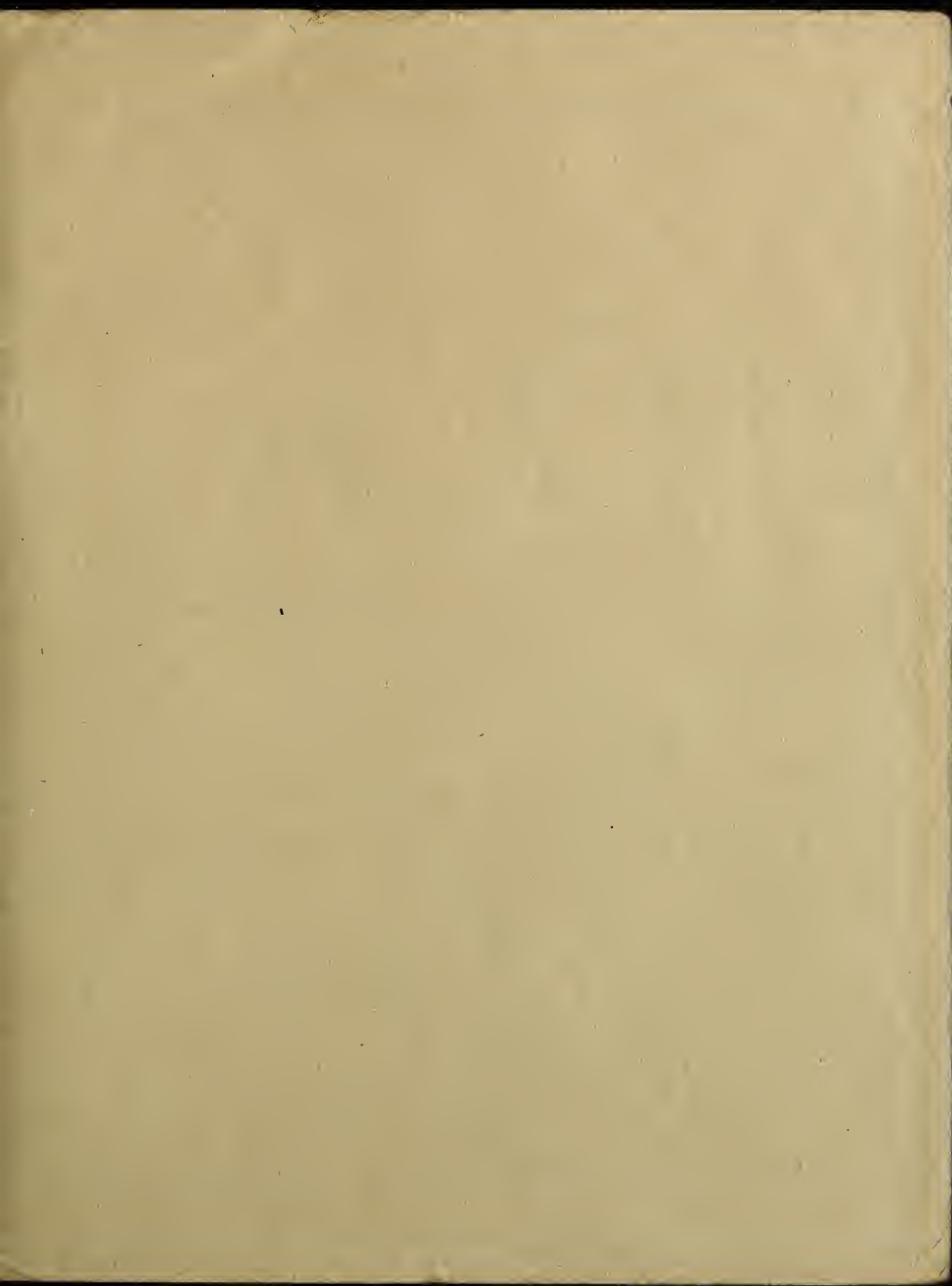
planter of Marion, and left three children:  
Emanuel, Kate, who married Richard C.  
English, and Mamie, who married M. O.  
Curd. He died at Louisville, Ky., Feb.  
24, 1917.













12

# LINCOLN NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

ESTABLISHED IN 1905

CHAS. H. BUESCHING, PRESIDENT	CLYDE E. FLOWERS, VICE PRESIDENT
GEO. WALDSCHMIDT, VICE PRESIDENT	MARK V. OVERMYER, VICE PRESIDENT
ERIC A. BAADE, VICE PRESIDENT	EDWARD W. YOUNG, TRUST OFFICER
OSCAR H. BUSHING, CASHIER	

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Oct. 22, 1941

Dr. L. A. Warren, Curator,  
Lincoln National Life Insurance Company,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

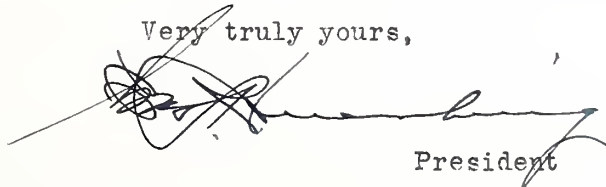
Some time ago we received an inquiry from Mr. P. Booker Robinson, Vice President, Liberty National Bank and Trust Company of Louisville, Ky. in which he advised us that they were in possession of a portrait of Abraham Lincoln painted by Nicola Marschall in 1881.

We advised Mr. Robinson that in all probability, this bank would not be interested in the portrait referred to but that we would call this to your attention. Mr. Robinson has forwarded to us a photograph of this portrait, and has asked us to call it to your attention, in that we suggested that your company might be interested in the purchase of the portrait.

At your convenience, will you kindly give the above your attention and advise us of your interest, if any.

With kind regards, beg to remain

Very truly yours,

  
President

CHB:MHC













born in this State  
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of the same and  
being a single  
person.  
and is a resident of  
and a determinable  
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Lincoln  
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7.6.1, 1132

In the library of the Knights of Columbus, to repeat, there hangs a life size portrait of Abraham Lincoln. It was painted by an artist, well known and famous in his day, and of whom I will speak later on, Nicola Marschall.

I have stood hundreds of times in wrapt attention before this marvelous creation of Mr. Marschall. For me it has an attraction, an appeal that I cannot analyze. In the features, you behold the man of strength and determination and character, but toned down by the sweetness, kindness and gentleness of his face, and they in turn are overshadowed by his evident sorrow, caused no doubt by the sacrifice of so many lives in our country's bloodiest war.

I have seen many noted and highly prized portraits of Lincoln, but as I recall them, they emphasized too strongly, in the efforts of the artists to obtain a correct and true likeness, the homeliness of Lincoln. On the other hand, Mr. Marshall has shown in his picture that Lincoln tho surrounded by fierce hatreds, passions and bloodshed, yet possessed a kind heart.

How quickly the sections would have been restored into harmony had he not been stricken down by the bullet of an assassin. In 1873, some years after the end of the war there came to Louisville, from Marion, Ala. Nicola Marschall, and his family, consisting, besides himself, of his wife and three children. Here he took up his abode. By profession an artist, he opened a gallery, its chief feature being portrait painting, located on the second floor of the building on the southwest corner of 4th and Green, and never departed therefrom till his death in 1921.

Mr. Marschall was born in Prussia of wealthy parents. His father was a tobacco manufacturer, but the business had no attraction for the son, who had a keen desire for an artist's life.

He studied painting in Rome, Florence, Naples, Paris, London, Berlin, Dusseldorf and Munich.

He came to the United States in 1849. Believing he had relatives in Marion, Ala., he made his way thither, but there were no relatives in evidence. Attracted by the beauty of the town and the surrounding country, he remained.

In the Young Ladies Academy there he taught languages, music and painting. His reputation as an artist and portrait painter spread, and his name became famous throughout the land.

After reading this I immediately thought of the oil portrait of Lincoln in the library of the Knights of Columbus in their fine club-house, on 4th avenue. Words kindred to Mr. Whitmans, were often said of portraits of Washington, but since Stewart painted his picture, they are said no more.



In 1861, the war having broken out, he was engaged to design a flag for the Confederate States and he designed the battle flag, known as the "Stars and Bars"—a broad red stripe, top and bottom, a white stripe between a sky blue union in the upper left corner with seven stars, each star representing a Southern Confederate State.

He also designed the well known, gray Confederate uniform. Well remembered and so easily recalled. The Confederate Congress was at the time in session at Montgomery, Ala., then the Capital of the Confederacy, and both the flag and the uniform were adopted without any changes. They are now on display among the war relics of that period in the building that was the Capital of the Southern Confederacy, but is again the Capital of the State of Alabama.

Mr. Marschall painted the portraits of many of our citizens, prominent in the state and in Louisville. Among these portraits, undoubtedly the most eminent and striking is that of Abraham Lincoln, the portrait about which I have been writing.

Tho' Mr. Marshall has been a Confederate soldier, the term then and during the war, rebel soldier, and tho' there still remained more or less feeling engendered by the war, Mr. Marschall had the greatest admiration and the deepest reverence for Mr. Lincoln. In his frame of mind he painted this picture. Of his own volition he painted it and with no thought of selling it. He painted it from a card photograph of Lincoln which he fancied. He painted the true and real Lincoln, as Stewart painted the real and true Washington.

After the portrait of Lincoln was painted, it was put on display in a large show window of one of Louisville's largest stores on 4th ave. It attracted immediate attention, and crowds hovered around it as long as it was on display.

I did not know Mr. Marschall personally. I recall him readily as I passed him often in his walks on 4th ave. His daughter, Mrs. M. O. Curd, still living, resides in Louisville, and I know her well. To her I am indebted for much of the information that I have embodied in this article. It gives me great pleasure to pay my tribute to her father.

It will no doubt please the readers to trace the portrait of Mr. Lincoln to its present owners, the Knights of Columbus.

Its first possessor, as far as I can ascertain was the "Jefferson Institute of Arts and Sciences," then, by purchase, it passed into possession of Mr. Luke Deppen, at the time the owner of Louisville's largest Retail Clothing Store, then by inheritance it passed to his son, John Deppen, who owned it a number of years. Again by purchase, Mr. Hilary Rodman, the general agent of the North Western Life Insurance Co. became its owner. After it was in his possession a number of years, he conceived the idea of providing a permanent home for it, where it would be prized and cared for in the same degree that he prized it.

Completing his idea he presented the portrait to the Knights of Columbus, who are highly honored in its possession. It is well hung in the most appropriate and conspicuous place in the beautiful library. It draws many a comment from visitors, who rejoice in the opportunity to view such a wonderful picture of the great Lincoln. Let us rejoice that it rests in the permanent home to which Mr. Rodman consigned it.



## REDISCOVER PICTURE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Special Dispatch to the Globe

LOUISVILLE, Ky, Feb 12—A rediscovered portrait of Abraham Lincoln, painted by Nicola Marschall, famous artist who designed the flag of the Confederate States and the gray uniform of the Confederate soldiers, has been hung in the Knights of Columbus Library here.

Hillary D. Rodman presented the painting to the council years ago. It hung in the old clubhouse for a period. When the cord suspending the picture broke and the portrait fell and the frame was broken, the pieces were set in the attic.

When the council moved into its new home, Alex J. Schultz, art dealer and member of the organization, found a canvas soiled with age. It was impossible to distinguish the subject with the dust and varnish. Frequent washings were necessary before the features of the martyred President were disclosed.

Marschall was born in St Wendell, Rheinisch Prussia. He came to America when he was 20, after studying under European masters. He died here 10 years ago at the age of 88.



MARSHALL

March

DRAWER 19A

Artist-M.

